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American Consulate,  
Nicosia, Cyprus

27 June 1949

Dear Roger:

Referring to our conversation of yesterday evening, I am enclosing the relevant portions of a Memorandum of Conversation which I had with Dutton on June 23. It is my understanding that when Colonel White returns to Washington he will obtain for me a decision as to whether I should proceed to arrange legal registration of all or only part of the properties now held by the United States in Cyprus.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM J. PORTER  
American Consul

Enclosure: Memorandum of Conversation.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Dutton of the Secretariat and W. J. Porter

DATE: June 23, 1949

In a conversation with Mr. Dutton this morning I took up the question of the registration in the name of the United States of properties already acquired by us in Cyprus. I referred to my note No. 19 of January 19, 1949, in which I requested the Government to inform me whether registration of these properties (specifically mentioning the Monitor Station at Karavas) could now be effected on the basis of Law No. 43 of 1948. This law made provision for the designation of Foreign Governments as "Corporate Bodies" by the Governor of Cyprus to allow them to acquire property in the Colony.

Mr. Dutton said that he was sure that in so far as it would enable us to register the State Department Radio Station property, and also any which we may desire for consular purposes, there would be no hitch in the United States being granted such designation by the Governor. It would then be published in the Gazette and we would be free to proceed with the acquisition of property for State Department purposes. However, he said that the Cyprus Government, and the people concerned in the U. K. were not clear in their minds as to the exact status of the Monitor Station. When the Colonial Office asked the Cyprus and other Colonial Governments to promulgate the "Corporate Bodies" Law 43 of 1948, it was its intention that this Law should cover State Department diplomatic and consular properties, and, according to Dutton, it had not been considered at the time whether the "Corporate Bodies" Law would also grant foreign Governments the right to acquire property on behalf of other agencies of the interested Governments. He suggested, therefore, that in the circumstances I might apply in a note for the designation of the United States as a "Corporate Body", in view of the fact that we have or will be acquiring several State Department properties, and at the same time make some statement to the effect that such designation would be used by us without prejudice to any decision which might ultimately be arrived at with respect to the Karavas property. He said that the question of allowing the registration of the Karavas property in the name of the United States under the provisions of the "Corporate Bodies" Act was being considered by the Foreign Office in London. I said that I would need to consider from our point of view whether it was advisable to proceed with what, in effect, would be a request for permission to register one set of properties owned by the United States while admitting that there might be some question as to whether another property could eventually be so registered, but I told him he would probably hear from me on this subject.